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Universities Join Forces to Launch MUS Health Care Institute, New Programs

September 30, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana and Montana State University have joined together to create a robust, interdisciplinary health sciences education and practice that will benefit patients, students and the health care industry across Montana and the nation.

Bringing together many different aspects of health care to holistically treat patients and train students, the initiative also has spurred new privately supported programs for in-home health care visits and support for American Indian health care.

Called the Montana University System Institute for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (MUS IPE Institute), the new program combines faculty, programming and curriculum at both UM and MSU.

Specific partners include UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and MSU's WWAMI Medical Education Program; the MSU College of Nursing; the Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine; the Montana Medical Laboratory Scientist Professional Program; the Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics; and counseling graduate programs in MSU's Department of Health and Human

Development.

The Montana University System Board of Regents approved the new program in May. The new institute will serve as a resource and training center for MUS health profession students, faculty and health care sites and serve as a conduit between statewide health care sites and MUS health care programs.

Reed Humphrey, dean of UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, said the new institute reflects the skills needed in modern health care and is a move away from single-discipline training in an equally fragmented health care system.

physical therapy and more – to address patient health issues,” Humphrey said. “The collaborative skills are necessary for today's health care workforce.”

Humphrey added that separately educating health students creates barriers to campus collaboration and leaves students ill-prepared for the demands of team-based collaborative health care. All of these issues negatively impact patients.

“Medicine is so complicated now that a single person can't do it,” said Kathy Jutila, interim director of the Montana State University Division of Health Sciences. “You require a whole team of professionals. The benefit of the IPE

therapy and pharmacy – and to start training them as students so they can learn their strengths as a team to efficiently and effectively deliver rural health care.”

To counter these challenges, the MUS IPE Institute will sustain and expand current efforts to enhance interprofessional education in the classroom and clinical environment, while creating better infrastructure to support health care educators and practitioners across the state.

“The MUS IPE Institute will build on professional expertise to encourage teamwork, shared values and common understanding,” said Kate Chapin, interim co-director of the institute. “By combining resources our students will be prepared to provide high-quality patient care.”

Additionally, the Montana Healthcare Foundation has funded two projects at UM: the Montana Interprofessional Student Hotspotting project and Improving Access, Training and Recruitment for American Indian Healthcare.

The Montana Interprofessional Student Hotspotting project will collaborate with Missoula's Partnership Health Center's Complex Care Program to implement a team-based, patient-centered approach to serving the patients who have high use of health care services in Missoula County.

Through home-based, non-clinical interventions, the project seeks to improve patients' quality of life and integrate medical, behavioral and social care. The program will train health sciences students to identify and address social and environmental barriers that lead patients to seek regular, primary care.

The second program – Improving Access, Training and Recruitment for American Indian Healthcare – pairs UM's Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana (FMRWM) with Tribal Health of the Confederated Salish and

Kootenai Tribes.

The program will provide cultural training for resident physicians and students and will offer clinical learning opportunities through tribal health. The program also will train resident physicians and students of other health professions so they will be better prepared to work toward delivering the highest quality care for Native populations.

“This is an exciting and unique opportunity for residents and students to learn from and develop greater interest in working with Native populations,” said Dr. Darin Bell, assistant director of rural education at FMRWM. “The chance to work together in interdisciplinary teams and provide care that has previously been difficult for patients to access will provide enormous benefit for all.”

Humphrey said the launch of the MUS IPE and two new programs mirrors the MUS goal of interprofessional and collaborative practice.

“These programs will create something special for health care in Montana,” he said.

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SpectrUM Garners National Award for EmPower Place

September 30, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area was honored with a national award for EmPower Place, its innovative, collaboratively operated, family learning center at Missoula Food Bank and Community Center.

The 2019 Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Award recognizes spectrUM's



role in developing and anchoring EmPower Place, which serves over 15,000 people annually.

Edgie awards are bestowed by the Association of Science and Technology Centers, which honors extraordinary accomplishments for museums and science.

The award was presented in September at the ASTC annual conference in Toronto. SpectrUM was recognized in the category of visitor experience by a small institution. A 14-member jury of science center and museum professionals reviewed and selected the award recipients.

Operated collaboratively by spectrUM, Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, and Missoula Public Library, EmPower Place embeds hands-on learning where children and families already gather. Activities in the space include science enrichment, library books and programming, after-school clubs, free meals and snacks and activities led by UM faculty and graduate students.

“EmPower Place is designed to feed both bodies and minds, creating a vibrant hub within the food bank where children can grab a snack, learn and play,” said spectrUM Interim Director Jessie Herbert-Meny. “Every day at EmPower, children are learning and exploring, and parents and caregivers are connecting and building community. It’s a transformative place.”

SpectrUM was the lead on a \$475,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that launched EmPower Place’s exhibits, programming and collaborative approach. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency also supported the creation of EmPower Place.

Sponsored by Group Delphi, the Edgie awards honor the late Roy L. Shafer, a former science center director, ASTC president and mentor.

EmPower Place is located at the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center at 1720 Wyoming St. and is open

from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 2:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

###

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Research Explores Capacity of Laws to Cope with Environmental Change

September 27, 2019

MISSOULA – Do you think that major statutory reform is necessary to address global environmental challenges? Think again.

New research explores the untapped capacity of existing environmental and natural resources management statutes to address accelerating



environmental change in the absence of major legislative reform.

The work was published this month in the Proceedings of the

National Academy of Sciences by a group of environmental law scholars, including Brian Chaffin, assistant professor of water policy and governance at the University of Montana.

The paper, “Untapped capacity for resilience in environmental law,” comes at a time when the world’s environment is changing rapidly in ways that directly impact human well-being, from migrating species to changing precipitation patterns, flooding and water supplies. As a result, adaptation – both of ecosystems and social-ecological system – is inevitable, according to researchers.

In many cases, systems also will have to transform into new configurations.

“When the ecological and social realities of a system no longer support key values such as biodiversity and human well-being, environmental managers and policymakers will be on the frontlines of guiding systems toward new configurations,” Chaffin said.

In both the U.S. and European Union, policymakers have grappled with how best to handle the challenges. Many believe that new legislative regimes will be necessary. However, in the U.S., the federal government is unlikely to engage in any major overhaul of national environmental and natural resources statutes to aid necessary adaptation and transformation efforts, even though some state and local governments are increasingly responding through legal amendments.

The new research in PNAS offers solutions to a lack of legislative reform by focusing on strategies the various government agencies that implement the statutes can take to tap into existing flexibility.

The scholars identify existing laws with provisions that provide flexibility to create new standards as conditions change. One example in the U.S. is the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which

allows fishery management to adjust catch allowances. The scholars note the law also has a transformative capacity stemming from the flexibility of the terms of the law itself and procedural discretion. When legal capacities are leveraged, multiple levels of government can respond to complex environmental changes while staying within a legislative framework that already exists.

The article highlights examples of existing statutes that have sufficient flexibility to substantially increase adaptive and transformative capacities to productively cope with a changing world, said Robin Craig of the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. There are two primary sources of increased capacities.

First, there is often flexibility within the statute itself, she said, with the statute providing room for new implementation strategies to cope with new realities, such as through productive exercises of federal agency discretion.

“Second, much of the existing environmental and natural resources statutory regime provides the authority to open up space for social-ecological systems to better use their own adaptive and transformative capacities,” Craig said. “For example, rather than mandate that a particular protected area remain in an increasingly forced historical state of being, agency management rule changes can allow the area to adapt and evolve to changing conditions while still protecting the new productive system that emerges.”

She said managers and stakeholders can take examples from the research and explore what they can do in their own communities to solve environmental challenges.

“The goal is to avoid system collapse – to ensure that we guide adaptation and transformation so that the evolved social-ecological systems are productive, support biodiversity and continue to contribute to human well-being, even if they are different systems from what we’ve been used to in the past.”

Another co-author, J.B. Ruhl of Vanderbilt University Law School, observed that there are examples from the past in which bold agency action overcame legislative gridlock to transform how conservation programs operated, such as how the U.S. Department of the Interior during the Clinton administration created innovative new approaches for implementing the Endangered Species Act.

“We can take a page from the past and put it into action for the future,” Ruhl said.

The full article is online here at <http://bit.ly/2IL5eEE>.

Besides Chaffin, Craig and Ruhl, other article co-authors come from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Netherlands’ Utrecht University School of Law and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, among others.

###

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UM to Perform 'Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play' in October

September 27, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance will present Anne Washburn's "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" Oct. 9-20.

This production, presented in the Montana Theatre on campus, kicks off the mainstage season for the University.

"Mr. Burns" is directed by Jadd Davis, a directing Master of Fine Arts candidate, as his first mainstage show at UM. Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9-12 and Oct. 16-19 and at 2 p.m. Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 19-20.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$16 for seniors and \$12 for UM students. They are available by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 between noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance>.

Audience discretion is advised as "Mr. Burns" includes mature themes and content.

Shortly after an apocalyptic event, a group of survivors band together and begin to recount the episode "Cape

Feare" from the television show "The Simpsons." The second act picks up with the same group seven years later, who have now formed a theatrical troupe that specializes in performing "Simpsons" episodes, commercials and all.

The final act is set 75 years in the future. The same episode of "The Simpsons," now a familiar myth, has been reworked into a musical pageant, with the plot, characters and morals repurposed to fit the artistic and dramatic needs of a culture still reeling from the destruction of civilization and the near extinction of humanity decades earlier.

"'Mr. Burns,' more than anything else," Davis said, "is a love letter to the power of the narrative and our human need to rally around our collective story. Where one story ends another begins – binding us together and flowing us forward to who knows where. It may be rife with raging darkness, but like every good story it also is punctuated with moments of the sublime."

A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre and Dance productions for the academic year is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/default.php>.

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UM Law School to Host 38th Public Land Law Conference

September 26, 2019

MISSOULA – Distinguished speakers from across Canada and the U.S., including a Canadian Supreme Court justice, will gather at the 38th Public Land Law Conference at the University of Montana in October.

Held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3-4, the conference will take place in UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law. This year's theme is "Carved by Glaciers: Stewardship Across the Northern Rockies," and the event will be held in partnership with the University of Calgary School of Law and hosted by UM's School of Law Public Land & Resources Law Review.

During the conference, speakers will compare the countries' legal approaches to environmental regulation, energy development and infrastructure, climate change, wildlife corridors, water management, fisheries and indigenous rights in the Northern Rockies. Canadian Supreme Court Justice Russell S. Brown will provide an opening keynote.

The agenda includes an optional field trip to the Bitterroot Valley from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, followed by Brown's keynote on "Judicial Review in Environmental Matters in Canada" and a reception. On Friday, speakers from Canada and the Pacific Northwest will deliver talks throughout the day.

The Thursday keynote and Friday educational sessions are free to students and the general public. The optional Thursday field trip with Continuing Legal Education content is \$35, and the keynote and sessions are \$150 for lawyers seeking CLE.

All educational sessions take place in School of Law Room 201. For the full schedule and updates and to view hotel room blocks, visit <https://www.umt.edu/law/newsevents/events/publicland.php>.

###

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Missoula College Collaborates with Amazon Web Services, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave for Fiber Splicing Certificate

September 26, 2019

MISSOULA – This week, Missoula College hosted a collaborative training event on fiber optic technology that resulted in an industry certificate from Amazon Web Services.

Officials from AWS and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave worked with Missoula College for the training, which delivered cutting-edge technical skills in fiber optic installation and repair. Sumitomo Electric's world-class experts offered instruction in fiber optic technologies.

"This training course was a wonderful opportunity to expand the telecommunications workforce to meet the growing need for higher density network infrastructures," said Nobuyuki

Suzuki, president and CEO of Sumitomo Electric Lightwave. “Together, with AWS and the University of Montana, we’re committed to educating next-generation thinkers who will create sustainable fiber optic networks for years to come.”

Students completed a three-day intensive training session and earned certificates. The event concluded with a networking opportunity that connected potential employers with newly certified students.



“AWS wants to help train workers for today and for the future,” said Michael Punke, vice president of Global Public Policy, AWS. “Technicians who know how to use cutting-edge machines like the fusion splicer will be qualified to perform good jobs building the infrastructure needed to wire the country for the digital world. AWS appreciates the opportunity to work with Missoula College to provide this training.”

Tom Gallagher, dean of Missoula College, said the industry-driven program mirrors economic opportunities in Missoula with participants from Allegiance Benefits and Missoula County Public Schools.

“We know the workforce demand for people with fiber optic tech skills is skyrocketing, and this event exemplifies the desire by all of the contributors to prepare students to meet those needs,” he said.

###

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UM Grizzly Songwriters Showcase Announced

September 25, 2019

MISSOULA – Nationally known singer-songwriters from across the country will assemble at the University of Montana to co-headline the Grizzly Songwriters Showcase at the Dennison Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13. All proceeds benefit UM's Entertainment Management Program.

Tom Catmull of "Sail On Gone," John Floridis of "Musician's Spotlight," Susan Gibson of "Wide Open Spaces," Kostas of "Timber, I'm Falling In Love" and John Pierce of "Sweet Annie" will share their lyrics and the stories behind the songs

which have been made famous. Their works have been used by artists such as the Zac Brown Band, Dixie Chicks, Dwight Yoakam and George Strait, among others.

All five artists have ties to UM and have called Montana home.

Ticket prices for this remarkable event start at \$10 for students, \$30 for general admission and \$50 for a limited VIP ticket, which includes a private Q&A session and meet and greet. Tickets are now on sale at <http://bit.ly/2ITJ3Mm>.

The concert is produced by Entertainment Management students in the UM College of Business. UMEM introduces students to the business of entertainment while giving them the opportunity to learn from top professionals in the industry, both alumni and additional industry leaders, in a relaxed classroom environment. This one-of-a-kind program offers an incredible opportunity for students looking to break into the entertainment industry. More information is online at <http://bit.ly/2mdmt1e>.

For more information on the Grizzly Songwriters Showcase, call Sarah Peruzzi in the Entertainment Management office at 406-243-5696 or email umem@mso.umt.edu.

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UM Incoming Class Stabilizes, Retention Jumps 3%

September 24, 2019



MISSOULA – The University of Montana saw a stabilization of the incoming class this fall semester, with the number of students who have finalized registration up 2.7%. Retention, described as the percentage of students returning to campus for their sophomore year, is up significantly: 71.4% compared to 68.4% last year.

Cathy Cole, UM vice president for enrollment management and strategic communications, updated the campus community on enrollment figures and provided information about a shift in the University's enrollment management model and the way students are accounted for at census.

"We are changing to a more proven methodology to report our enrollment, one I have used at past institutions and that many institutions around the country use," she said. "It is much more accurate and gives a true picture of our enrollment."

The key difference is reporting only students who have finalized their registration and payment by the census date. Previously, the census counts included students who were registered but had not finalized these details. That made revenue projections, student headcount estimates and retention data more challenging to accurately calculate, as some of the data inputs were subjective. With the new methodology, the data are completely objective.

Cole noted that inconsistencies with payment deadlines, delays in financial aid and a confusing cancellation policy over the past several years contributed to the challenges of reporting census data.

"We're addressing these issues by employing the best practices in strategic enrollment management," she said. "In doing so, we'll get prospective students to engage earlier, commit to the institution sooner and finalize their registration well before the 15th day of instruction and our census calculations. That will have downstream benefits to student success, retention and persistence to graduation."

UM released numbers reflecting both the new methodology and the traditional report this fall at <http://bit.ly/2mUUSCv>. It will transition fully to reporting only using the new methodology beginning in the spring.

Cole also was optimistic about the composition of incoming students. The number of international students increased 8.9%, reflecting an increase of 64 students. The number of Native American students also was up at both the mountain campus and Missoula College. The number of new freshmen coming to UM under WUE, the Western Undergraduate Exchange, also rose sharply – 287 students compared with 146 a year ago.

"We have made progress in two areas that are vital to improving enrollment at UM now and into the future: stabilizing the incoming class and improving retention," Cole said. "We have more work to do, but I'm very pleased with the progress we're seeing this year."

###

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UM Celebrates American Indian Heritage Week with Events

September 23, 2019

MISSOULA – Located on the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people, the University of Montana will celebrate its Native American students and alumni this week with a series of special events. UM also will welcome Dr. Brad Hall, the University's new tribal outreach specialist.

A member of the Blackfeet Nation, Hall will work to recruit new students to UM and connect UM faculty to tribal college faculty to build new academic programming. He also will strengthen relationships between the leaders of tribal educational institutions and UM.

UM's American Indian Heritage Week runs Sept. 23-27. Scheduled events are:

- An ethnobotany table and tour with Dr. Rosalyn LaPier, an environmental studies associate professor and Blackfeet scholar, at 3 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Payne Center.
- A ribbon skirt and ribbon shirt day on **Wednesday**, in which students are encouraged to wear these items in recognition of murdered and missing indigenous women.
- An indigenous film screening from 6 to 8 p.m. **Wednesday** in the Payne Center.

- A second ethnobotany table and tour with LaPier at 3 p.m. **Thursday** at the Payne Center.
- A 7 a.m. teepee raising **Friday** near the Payne Center fire pit, followed by an 8:15 a.m. hike to the M for a sunrise ceremony.
- A noon ceremony **Friday** at the Payne Center with UM President Seth Bodnar, who will read a proclamation and introduce Hall, UM's new tribal outreach specialist.
- A 1 and 2 p.m. planetarium event at the Payne Center on **Friday**, which will feature stories under the stars.

For more information call Michelle Guzman, director of UM American Indian Student Services, at 406-243-6352 or email michelle.guzman@umontana.edu.

###

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UM Family Medicine Program Top Rural Doctor Producer in Nation

September 18, 2019



MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana recently was recognized for graduating more family physicians that go into rural practice than any other program surveyed in the

country.

The Rural Training Track Collaborative conducts an annual survey of residency programs to recognize those who consistently produce high numbers of rural doctors on a three-year rolling average. The 2019 survey found that FMRWM produced an average of seven new rural doctors each year.

“We have made great efforts to build a training program with deep connections to rural Montana communities,” said Rob Stenger, the residency program director. “It is a privilege to recruit and train the next generation of rural Montana family physicians, and wonderful to be recognized nationally for our efforts.”

Montana suffers from a shortage of primary care physicians, which is predicted to grow to almost 200 new doctors needed by 2030. Before the creation of FMRWM in 2013, Montana had the lowest number of postgraduate training positions for new doctors per capita of any state in the nation.

FMRWM, which is a program of the UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, was created with a mission to develop family physicians who are compassionate, clinically competent and motivated to serve patients and communities in the rural and underserved areas of Montana.

The program accepts 10 new residents a year from about 800 medical student applicants. The three-year training program prepares them to practice rural family medicine, with a goal of having them stay in Montana. Of FMRWM’s four graduating classes, 77% have gone on to practice in rural or underserved areas, with 72% remaining in the state in Montana communities, including Browning, Helena, Lewistown, Libby, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan and Whitefish, as well as staying locally in Missoula and Kalispell.

“We developed a program with a robust curriculum where residents spend time working in rural communities throughout the state,” said Dr. Darin Bell, FMRWM assistant director of rural education. “We have a dedicated group of clinics and hospitals in rural areas that are invested in helping our residents become the best family doctors they can be. It’s fantastic to see those efforts paying off, as our graduates often get hired by the same rural communities that help train them.”

The residency program is sponsored by Missoula’s Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center, as well as Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Resident and faculty physicians have outpatient clinics at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell. All residents spend a significant portion of their time working and training at a network of 15 rural hospitals and clinics throughout western Montana.

The newest class to join the program started in July, and recruiting for the next class begins this month.

RTTC is a network of medical schools and primary care residencies across the United States dedicated to increasing the training and development of doctors who practice primary care medicine in rural areas.

###

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UM Study Abroad Students Fuel Understanding of Gaps in Conservation Data

September 17, 2019

By Kasey Rahn, UM News Service

MISSOULA – Animals around the globe face rising extinction rates, but there is often a lack of data about the causes of population declines, as well as ecological and biological considerations for conservation.

For example, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provides a catalog of the conservation status for species around the globe, but many species are listed as “data deficient” because of this lack of information.

A new collaborative study between students from University of Montana and the Universidad de Concepcion in Chile seeks to understand the type and magnitude of gaps in scientific information as a way to improve conservation planning.

The authors used Chile – a biodiversity hot-spot where 55 percent of plants and nearly 15 percent of mammals are endemic – as a case study to assess trends in available ecological and biological information relevant to conservation planning for threatened and endangered terrestrial mammals. Specifically, the team read and assessed scientific literature for 22 IUCN red-listed species in Chile and categorized it by topic and species.

Although the number of published articles increased over the past 19 years, they found that seven species (31 percent), including the one critically endangered species, had little available research and over 25 percent of species were missing critical information regarding basic biological and life history characteristics. Their finding of substantial gaps in information for at-risk Chilean mammals highlights the importance of developing strategic research agendas for at-risk species in Chile, as well as across the globe.

“This study is important because it highlights knowledge gaps in the literature and research for specific at-risk species,” said first author Sarah Gaulke, who graduated from UM in 2017 with a major in wildlife biology and a minor in ecological restoration. “To effectively conserve species, there is certain essential knowledge about the habitat and ecology of the species. Without that knowledge, efforts to save a species may be misguided. With this study, researchers and managers are better able to target areas for research and funding to gather necessary information.

“I think it’s important for the public to understand that there is still a lot of unknown information about some at-risk species,” Gaulke said. “We may not have the information and research currently to properly conserve these species, which is a time sensitive issue. While this review focuses on Chile, it can be used as a case study for other countries to emphasize where research gaps may be.”

“The research has important implications for mammal conservation but also demonstrates the importance of study abroad experiences,” said Cara Nelson, a UM professor of restoration ecology who mentored the research team.

Nelson spent a sabbatical year in Chile, teaching at the Universidad de Concepcion and conducting research on forest restoration. In addition, she taught a UM study abroad course on Patagonian ecosystems, in which Gaulke participated as a Franke Sustainability Fellow. The Franke Sustainability Fellowship supports undergraduate students in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation studying or practicing sustainability projects off-campus.

Co-author Luke Johnson, also a Franke Fellow, spent a semester at the Universidad de Concepcion in 2017, took the Patagonia course in 2018 and graduated with a degree in wildlife biology in 2019.

“I got involved with this study while studying abroad at the University of Concepcion in Chile,” Johnson said. “Sarah and Cara had done some preliminary research on the topic but excluded articles written in Spanish. I was initially brought on board to help review Spanish articles and then proceeded to assist in the drafting and editing process.”

Two students from the University de Concepcion, Enzo Martelli and Carlos Letelier, were also instrumental to the research team. Martelli spent a semester working in Nelson’s lab at UM in 2016 and served as a teaching assistant in the Patagonia course in 2018; he is now a master’s student in UM’s Restoration Ecology Lab.

“The opportunity to participate in the study abroad program was fundamental to my development as a scientist,” he said. “It helped me to develop critical thinking skills by exposing me to different perspectives about science and

conservation, as well as to build an international collaborative network.”

The study, “Threatened and endangered mammals in Chile: Does research align with conservation information needs?” was published in the September issue of Conservation Science and Practice, a new journal of the Society for Conservation Biology. It was published online on Aug. 11 and can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/2m8ohIS>.

###

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UM Rodeo Cowgirl Takes the Reins in the Arena and Classroom

September 17, 2019

MISSOULA – Ashtyn Carlson has hit barrels so many times from the saddle that she's got bone chips in both knees. At 20 years old, she says that's the price for speed.

The University of Montana junior from Loma, Colorado, is the newest addition to UM's Grizzly Rodeo team, but a cloverleaf pattern in between metal water barrels with her horse in record time.

She's got the belt buckle to prove it.

"I'm almost too afraid to wear it around because it's my favorite thing," Carlson says of her College National Finals Rodeo belt buckle, engraved in gold and silver, given only to first-place finishers. "I don't want it getting scratched or dirty."

Last year, she won first place in barrel racing at the CNFR, helping her team



win the National Reserve Women's Team title. Before that, she won the reserve women's all-around title and the reserve champion barrel racing title for the Rocky Mountain region. In 2018, she took home the title for National Barrel Racing Rookie of the Year and qualified for the past two years to compete in goat tying and barrel racing at the college finals.

Carlson transferred to UM this fall after graduating from College of Southern Idaho, and now the petite barrel racer has her eyes set on more national titles, as well as a UM marketing degree.

"I'm just really excited and happy to be

is so welcoming and friendly. The team immediately took me in."

Her quick trajectory from rodeo rookie to ESPN highlight started as a freshman in high school at Grand Junction. She never set foot in a rodeo arena before then. Quickly finding her footing with a knack for goat tying and barrels, she started qualifying for regional and national events. She entered SCI on a full ride rodeo scholarship and found herself breaking 14 seconds for barrel racing. The fastest recorded time is 13.46 seconds, a National Finals Rodeo record held by Carlee Pierce.

At UM, Carlson said she hopes to three-peat as National Barrel Racing Champion.

"I love to go fast," Carlson said. "There's just something about speed paired with the agility of an incredibly athletic horse. It's addicting."

Carlson is a junior in UM's College of Business. Despite having the biggest truck in the residence hall parking lot and getting some strange looks when she carries her rope across campus, Carlson said UM already feels like

As she settles into advanced marketing classes this fall, she hopes to learn more about branding strategies and communication formulas that she can apply to the horse world. Calling her classwork "challenging and intimidating, but in a good way," Carlson said she's as focused with her academics as she is on the back of her horse, Stick, a dark bay registered as RGR Golden Oak.

"I view school in the same way I do training horses: one day at a time," she said. "It takes a lot of patience and practice, and you've got to be open to feedback and help."

Carlson already has a head start on her business classmates: She owns and operates ABC Performance Horses, branded after her own name – Ashytn Bree Carlson.

Calling the company her “side hustle,” she trains and markets rodeo horses in spare time between rodeo circuits. During her first six months of operation, she garnered more than \$50,000 in sales. Her business acumen landed her a sponsorship from the app Rodeo Buddy, which tracks horse sales and training characteristics. She’s also sponsored by MVP Horse Supplements, Rock & Roll Denim, Heart4Brand, and A Heart for Horses Inc. – a Montana horse rescue nonprofit.

Contacts in her phone include some of the biggest names in professional rodeo like Hailey Kinsel, an American World barrel racing champion and NFR regular, and Jody Sheffield, NFR qualifier and former winner of the prestigious Pendleton RoundUp.

Carlson said the female culture of support in competitive rodeo inspires her.

“In any individual sport, there’s going to be people rooting for your downfall,” she said. “But in rodeo, people just want to see you do your best. I love that part about it.”

Carlson recalls a recent event when she witnessed a competitor’s horse bolt, fall and get badly tangled in the gate.

“Right after the accident, there were 10 people lined up outside the gate, most of the women, ready to offer that girl their horse for her next round. That moment just really stuck with me.”

Carlson said UM’s Rodeo Team culture of generosity and support is a key reason she chose UM. She was recruited by some of the nation’s top rodeo colleges – many of them Big 12 schools – but settled on UM, largely to due to rodeo coach Kory Mytty.



better, even though I was from a completely different school at the time. That really meant a lot.”

For Mytty, now in his eighth year coaching at UM, Carlson’s addition to the UM Rodeo team means Carlson will have the opportunity to hone her skills and enjoy being part of a team.

“Not just for Ashtyn, but for any athlete on our team, my hope is that they do well competing in rodeo but also focus on the great education here at UM,” he said. “These athletes only have a handful of years to really experience rodeo as a team sport. After that, it’s all about the individual, so it’s important they make sure they can make a living and that comes from a UM education.”

In addition to Carlson, UM rodeo athletes include Kris Anderson, Rachel Cutler, Meagan Harris, Taylor Harris, Colton Johns, Madison Mcglaughlin and Jackson Stephens.

UM’s Rodeo Team competes in the Big Sky Region under the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The team competes in five rodeos each in the fall and spring. A rodeo schedule can be found at <http://www.umt.edu/umrodeo/>.

###

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UM Connects Students, Alumni with Professional Health Career Opportunities

September 17, 2019

MISSOULA – As the demand for health services increases, health care organizations face challenges recruiting and retaining workers. Missoula College will offer an opportunity for employers to hire highly skilled caregivers trained at the University of Montana during an upcoming career fair.

The Health Professions Career Fair and Expo will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Missoula College. The event is hosted by the UM Office of Experiential Learning and Career Success, Missoula College and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center.

“Part of Missoula College’s mission is to support workforce development, and the health field presents enormous challenges in recruiting and retaining workers,” said Dan Funsch, Missoula College interim associate dean and Department of Health Professions chair. “Our Health Professions Career Fair and Expo introduces our students to employers and gives the organizations a chance to meet and recruit the best and brightest of our students.”

The career fair portion runs from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Fair registration is open to all organizations recruiting UM students and alumni for nursing, radiologic technology, medical information technology and other entry-level health

care positions.

Additionally, high school students from around the region will attend from noon to 2:30 p.m. to learn about Missoula College and health care careers. This portion of the expo features hands-on activities provided by UM faculty and community health care professionals.

“Students know about doctors and nurses, but they don’t always realize there are a wide variety of other health care fields to explore – many of which only require an associate’s degree,” Funsch said. “This event introduces high school students to the great breadth of opportunity in today’s evolving world of health care.”

Employers can register online by signing into the Handshake portal at <https://umt.joinhandshake.com/login>.

For more information call Mani Stubbs, Health Professions Career Fair and Expo organizer, at 406-243-6830 or email manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.

###

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UM to Host Events Examining Climate Change as Part of Global Event

September 16, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The Global Climate Strike, an international movement that calls for action responding to climate change, will take place around the world on Friday, Sept. 20, during which individuals will walk out of classrooms, workplaces and homes to participate in public gatherings focused on climate change. Related events will be occurring in Missoula and on the University of Montana campus beginning Sept. 17.

“Education and research around climate change is a signature part of UM’s history and identity,” said UM Provost Jon Harbor. “As a public university, it is UM’s responsibility to communicate clearly our existing knowledge around climate science, and relay the importance and nuanced complexity of climate change and climate action.”

Organized by UM’s Climate Change Studies program and the Office of Sustainability, a series of events will take place on campus from Tuesday, Sept. 17, through Wednesday, Sept. 25, to promote informed discussion and reflection about climate action throughout the campus community.

The following events are free and open to the public:

- Noon-1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, Davidson Honors College Ephron Lounge: [Climate Action Roundtable](#) with UM students, alumni, and faculty.
- 5-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19, University Center Rooms 326-327: [Communicating about Climate Panel Discussion](#).
- 3:30-5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23, Liberal Arts Building Room 011: Teach-in on global climate justice with UM faculty members:
 - Paul Haber, political science
 - Katie Kane, English
 - Rosalyn LaPier, environmental studies
 - Tobin Miller Shearer, history and African-American studies
- 3:30-5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25, LA Building Room 011: Talk by Diana Maneta of Missoula County on renewable energy.

In addition to these events hosted by UM, other student groups in Missoula are organizing a walkout to mark the Global Climate Strike on Friday, Sept. 20. A week of action will follow, with events slated to take place on the UM campus.

"I encourage UM faculty, staff, and students to consider the Global Climate Strike as an opportunity to engage in discussions about climate change, sustainability and the environment," Harbor said. "Our university is a recognized leader in research, teaching and service in these important areas."

###

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Missoula, UM Partnership Creates New Academic Health Department

September 16, 2019

MISSOULA – The Missoula City-County Health Department and the University of Montana have joined forces to create a new Academic Health Department.

The new organization will foster collaboration on public health research, practice and service. The UM side of the organization is based in the University's School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

"We are excited to work with the Missoula City-County Health Department on this important achievement," said Reed Humphrey, dean of UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, which houses the UM school. "This makes Montana just the 21st state in the U.S. to have such an academic relationship. I'm convinced it will result in more extramural funding and more students earning certificates and degrees in public health. This is a significant step forward for UM in the region."

The national Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice has recognized the new Academic Health Department, which is the only such organization in Montana.

Missoula's AHD will focus on public health workforce education and training. Health department professionals will serve as mentors and advisers to UM public health students, and UM faculty members will contribute as instructors and technical advisers to health department professionals in practice.

Joint research efforts are off to a strong start within the new AHD, with collaborative research into wildfire smoke, immunizations and improving regulatory programs underway. These joint projects are similar to those undertaken by most of the nation's AHDs.

However, the Missoula AHD has a unique service focus on improving health in some of Missoula's lower-wealth neighborhoods. This initiative, "Invest Health," involves students working within those neighborhoods as they are guided by faculty, health department officials and neighborhood leaders. The effort already has garnered the attention and funding of philanthropic organizations.

The AHD held its inaugural conference at UM on Sept. 4 to review these joint projects and plan future endeavors.

"The Missoula City-County Health Board unanimously gave its approval and support to this formal partnership," said Ross Miller, the board chair. "This effort deliberately brings the joint resource of our flagship university's School of Public and Community Health Sciences and our nationally accredited Missoula City-County Health Department to bear on the improving our public health workforce and the public health of our citizens."

###

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UM to Recognize SEA Change Efforts at Women's Soccer Match Sept. 13

September 12, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will recognize those working to make a S.E.A. Change at UM during a Griz soccer match on Friday, Sept. 13.

The S.E.A. Change initiative amplifies UM's commitment to gender equity through a campus culture that places the safety and well-being of students first, seeking opportunities to empower all women while accelerating their efforts to shape the future through lives of impact.

Kickoff takes place at 4 p.m. at South Campus Stadium. Tickets to the game cost \$7 and are available at <http://www.umt.edu/griztix>. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.



The halftime program will recognize those behind the S.E.A. Change effort at UM, including the new Women's Leadership Initiative cohort, the board of Pursue Your Passions, affiliated faculty in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program and others. Clearwater Credit Union will sponsor a private BBQ before the game.

Learn more about the S.E.A. Change initiative at www.umt.edu/sea-change.

###

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UM to Perform 'The Wolves' Dramatic Comedy in September

September 12, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance will present Sarah DeLappe's "The Wolves" to audiences at the close of September.

This production comprises Theatre and Dance's Studio Series, which incorporates inventive staging and minimal design so focus is placed on the performers and the text.

"The Wolves" is directed by UM Associate Professor Pam Stiehl, with consultation provided by UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science doctoral candidate Maddie Tight. Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25-28 and 2 p.m. Sept. 28-29 in the Masquer Theatre of UM's Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

The production is general admission only, and tickets cost \$10. Tickets are available by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 between noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or buying online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance>.

Audience discretion is advised as "The Wolves" includes mature themes and content.

Set during pre-game warmups for a girls' city-league indoor soccer team, this sharp dramatic comedy paints a portrait of what things are like for a young woman growing up today – learning to be an individual, as well as navigating how to be a meaningful contributor to a winning team. The finely drawn characters defy stereotype, exploring mundane and life-changing topics with equal zeal and energy. "The Wolves" is an affecting snapshot, realized with intensity and humor, of the moments when youth and adulthood start to blend.

"This play, stripped of artifice, is such an exhilarating and exhausting actor exercise," Stiehl said. "Placed on indoor high school soccer fields, how do 10 women physically and emotionally explore and realize one another and themselves through play, teamwork, competition, friendship, love, animosity and tragedy?"

For more information, call Stiehl at 303-709-8720 or email pamyla.stiehl@umontana.edu.

A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre and Dance productions for the academic year is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/default.php>.

###

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UM Dining Claims Three National Awards

September 11, 2019

MISSOULA – A national college food services organization has presented three prestigious awards to the University of Montana.

The National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) announced UM as a recipient of multiple NACUFS 2019 Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards. UM Dining submitted entries and received three significant collegiate dining awards in the medium-sized schools bracket:

- A Gold Award in the Retail Sales–Single Concept category for UM Dining’s self-branded burger concept, Big Sky Burgers n’ Fries
- A Silver Award in the Catering–Special Event category for the UM Chefs Garden Dinner



Series held in the South Avenue Garden near the UM Golf Course

- A Bronze Award in the Residential Dining– Special Event category for “The Meal,” UM’s festive welcome event for incoming freshmen and their families.

Named for a NACUFS founder and highly regarded innovator in the collegiate dining industry, the Loyal E. Horton Awards celebrate exemplary menus, presentations, special event planning and new dining concepts.

Seventy-seven colleges and universities across North America submitted entries in six categories.

A team of six judges and committee chair examined each entry carefully and selected top candidates in each category for small, medium and large schools.



Contest entries were displayed at the NACUFS 2019 National Conference in Denver, Colorado, and award winners were publicly recognized at a luncheon on July 13, culminating with the announcement of the grand prize winners.

While garnering national recognition for excellence and innovation in campus foodservice is wonderful in and of itself, it’s certainly not new for the department, said UM Dining Director Camp Howard.

“It’s great to be recognized for the team’s ideas and the hard work that goes into these events, and to bring attention to how great UM is,” he said. “But the reason we do these things boils down to taking care of our students and making sure they have the best possible experience during their years on campus.”

###

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UM to Welcome First Native American U.S. Poet Laureate

September 11, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host a poetry reading by 23rd U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, who also is the first Native American to hold the position, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23.

The reading, hosted by UM's Department of Native American Studies, will take place in the A.L.I. Auditorium of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, with doors opening at 7 p.m.

Harjo's nine books of poetry include "An American Sunrise," "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings," "How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems" and "She Had Some Horses." Her memoir, "Crazy Brave," has won several awards, including the PEN USA Literary Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the American Book Award.



Harjo has received the 2019 Jackson Prize from the Poetry Society of America, the Ruth Lilly Prize from the Poetry

Foundation, the 2015 Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America.

She is a member of the Muscogee/Creek Nation and was inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame in 2014.

A renowned musician, Harjo has performed saxophone both nationally and internationally solo and with her band, the Arrow Dynamics. Her five albums of poetry and music also have won multiple awards.

Read more about Harjo at <https://blueflowerarts.com/artist/joy-harjo/>.

###

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UM to Honor Five Distinguished Alumni

September 10, 2019

MISSOULA – Five outstanding University of Montana alumni will receive 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards Friday, Oct. 4, during Homecoming.

Each year, UMAA recognizes alumni who have shown service and leadership in a variety of industries. This year, the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be honored for expanding the boundaries of cultural preservation, transportation, business, health care sustainability and education.

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma member Daryl Baldwin '96, M.A. '99, of **Liberty, Indiana**, has influenced the field of linguistics for his work to revitalize the “sleeping” language of Myaamia. Through analyzing archival materials, building on linguistic reconstruction and even raising his family with the language, Baldwin revived the language despite the absence of native speakers – which earned him a “Genius Award” from the MacArthur Foundation in 2016.



Now the director of Miami University’s internationally-recognized Myaamia Center, he has helped preserve other Native languages through his leadership in organizations such as the Endangered Language Fund. Baldwin also works as co-director of the National Breath of Life Archival Institute for

the Indigenous Languages of North America.



Widely sought-after spokesperson Lana Richards Batts '68, of **Lakeside**, has blazed her path as a leader in the male-dominated trucking industry. For 20 years, her work as senior vice president of government affairs for the American Trucking Associations transformed its large lobbying staff into a powerhouse. After serving as president of the Truckload Carriers Association, Batts started her own mergers and acquisitions firm, Transport Capital Partners, and in 2011 co-founded the fast-growing trucking background screening company, Driver iQ.

She became the first female and non-multimillionaire to earn the top award of the trucking industry in 1994 – the S. Earl Dove Award – twice was named Woman of the Year by the Women's Transportation Seminar and also was the first female recognized with the Professional Truck Driver Institute's Lee Crittenden Memorial Award in 2006.

Dennis Eck '67, of **Corona del Mar, California**, has improved multiple organizations through technology, unique business solutions and education. While enjoying a successful grocery retail career, he developed an education program for employees at Coles Myer, Australia's largest retailer, as well as community outreach programs to bring high school dropouts back to full employment and education. Eck earned Australia's Astute Business Leader of the Year title in 2000.



Under Eck's direction, Ulta Salon Cosmetics & Fragrance experienced extensive growth from 100 to 1,400 stores. Eck and his wife have supported women in business and politics through multiple causes and funded a program with the University of California Irvine to save the hair of women undergoing chemotherapy. At UM, the Ecks have contributed more than \$8 million to renovate the Liberal Arts Building and created the Native American Scholarship Fund and the NEW Leadership Program.



During her 34 years as a nurse, Elizabeth "Beth" Schenk '81, of Missoula, has led the way for sustainability in health care. At Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, she has spearheaded environmental stewardship efforts to reduce healthcare-generated pollution, saving nearly \$1 million annually. Schenk created one of the first hospital workplace recycling programs in 1992, and her innovation has helped create pollution reduction plans within the Providence St. Joseph Health system – the nation's third largest nonprofit health system – and the Nurses Environmental Awareness Tool, used across the country and internationally.

She serves on multiple professional and volunteer boards and is an American Academy of Nursing Fellow and assistant research professor at the Washington State University College of Nursing. Schenk also is a founding member of Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate.

Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes member Mandy Smoker Broaddus, M.F.A. '03, of **Helena**, is an educational advocate for Native Americans, humanities leader, consultant and well-known writer. As director of Indian education for Montana's Office of Public Instruction for nine years, she helped improve access and close achievement gaps for American Indian students. Some of her recognitions include the 2015 National Indian Education Association Educator of the Year award, nomination to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education by President Barack Obama in 2016 and the Montana Governor's Award for



Excellence in Performance in 2017.

A published poet and Emmy-award winner, Smoker Broaddus recently was appointed to serve as one of two poet laureates for the state of Montana. She now practices as a regional Indian educational consultant throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The public is invited to the awards ceremony and reception at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in UM's University Center Ballroom. Read more about this year's Distinguished Alumni on the [Office of Alumni Relations website](#).

###

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UM Doctoral Student in Anthropology Receives Three Prestigious Awards

September 10, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – A University of Montana doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology is the recipient of three prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood Scholar Award for \$15,000.

Michaela Shifley is among 150 doctoral students in the U.S. and Canada who received the P.E.O. Sisterhood award this year. It provides merit-based awards for women who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree at an accredited college or university.

Shifley also received the Bertha Morton Award for \$3,000. Morton worked for the IRS in Helena but did not attend any university. She worked hard to save her money, and when she died in 1977, she left a significant portion of her estate to the UM Foundation to encourage serious students to obtain their education at UM.

Much like Morton,

Shifley has worked hard throughout her life, saving money and building experiences to get where she is today: earning a Ph.D. at UM.

Shifley was born and raised in Laurel, as were her parents. Her grandparents on both sides were Montana farmers and ranchers and her great-grandparents on both sides homesteaded in Montana.



Shifley also received the Dave Walter Research Fellowship for \$1,250 from the Montana Historical Society. She will use the award to conduct research at the collections and archives of the Montana Historical Society in Helena.

Recognition from these organizations follows Shifley's work over the past two years connecting the needs of cultural collections at UM with descent communities like the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy) and the long-term goals of the Smithsonian Institution. She interned at UM's Anthropological Collections Facility, as well as at the Smithsonian. Her doctoral research investigates the complex roles footwear played – and still plays – in the life of indigenous people of the North American Plains, with an emphasis on moccasin production and use in historic and contemporary Niitsitapi society.

“My research underscores the relevance of cultural knowledge and understanding fostered by projects that provide tangible bridges connecting life under the Big Sky from past to present,” Shifley said.

UM anthropology Professor Kelly Dixon works closely with Shifley as co-chair of her dissertation committee.

“We are fortunate to have students of Michaela’s caliber in our graduate program here at UM, and we admire her commitment to respectful cultural heritage stewardship,” Dixon said. “Our future is in good hands with citizens-scholars like Michaela.”

###

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Montana Access Scholarship Program Matches Gifts for Need-Based Scholarships

September 09, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – More than 1,000 University of Montana students could receive need-based financial support through the Montana Access Scholarship, an initiative established through a 2019 appropriation from the Montana Legislature. Donors making a gift through the initiative will double their investment thanks to state dollars that match their donation dollar-for-dollar.

In April, the 66th Montana Legislature approved \$2 million for state need-based student aid that, when matched one-to-one by private donations from each campus's fundraising foundation, will provide a total of \$4 million in financial aid for students across the Montana University System over the next two years.

As campus foundations receive donations for this program, the State of Montana, through the Office of the

Commissioner of Higher Education, will match those funds up to the cap amounts specified for each campus. Distribution of the state funds is conditional on a one-to-one match from private donors.

UM-Missoula and Missoula College students are eligible to receive more than \$1 million in scholarships through the program, provided that the University of Montana Foundation receives \$529,000 in philanthropic gifts directed to this initiative by March 2020.

“Every year, private donations provide approximately \$5 million in scholarships for UM students,” said Cindy Williams, president and CEO of the UM Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization that inspires philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at UM. “The Montana Access Scholarship provides an opportunity to increase by \$1 million the scholarships available to deserving Montana-resident students over the next two years.”

As UM works to increase its in-state graduates, it is committed to empowering students with limited resources to succeed in their dreams of earning a college degree. Gifts to the Montana Access Scholarship program provide need-based funding to those students. The scholarships will be awarded to Montana residents who meet the established criteria, which includes being enrolled full-time, demonstrating financial need on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and pursuing a certificate, associate degree or first bachelor's degree at UM-Missoula or Missoula College campuses.

Campus financial aid offices across the Montana University System will award \$1,000 academic scholarships (\$500 each semester) up to their approved allocation amount. Students may receive a Montana Access Scholarship both years as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

“A \$500 scholarship can make the difference between a student with financial need taking time off from school or continuing from one semester to the next,” said Cathy Cole, UM vice president for enrollment and strategic communication. “The Montana Access Scholarships will enable more students to stay on their path to career success.”

Montana Access Scholarship awards will be distributed based on financial need and other defined criteria. Gifts can be in any amount and from any interested donor, including individuals, families, businesses and private foundations. To give to the program and learn more, visit <http://www.supportum.org/mtaccess>.

Gifts to the Montana Access Scholarship program are part of Campaign Montana, the comprehensive, seven-year fundraising campaign that is inspiring \$400 million in philanthropic giving to UM through 2020. Donors will help achieve UM's vision of a university that puts student success at the forefront, driving excellence and innovation in teaching, research and learning. The campaign is managed by the UM Foundation.

Visit <http://www.campaignmontana.org> to learn more.

###

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UM College of Business Ranks Best in Big Sky

September 09, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Business ranks among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report 2020 rankings released Sept. 9.

For a fourth consecutive year, the college earned at least a share of the top spot in the Big Sky Conference. After holding sole



possession of the honor in the previous rankings, this year the top spot is shared with the University of Idaho.

“The University of Montana’s College of Business provides transformative learning experiences, which help our students achieve great career opportunities,” said Dean Suzanne Tilleman. “Rankings such as these help parents and students realize the exceptional value of a UM College of Business education.”

The Big Sky Conference comprises universities in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, California and Utah. The UM College of Business came in 153rd in the nation, more than 70 spots over the next Montana institution.

UM College of Business was also one of just three Big Sky Conference institutions to make the U.S. News and World Report Social Mobility rankings. These rankings measure how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants – those typically coming from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually.

The College of Business offers six undergraduate majors in accounting, finance, international business, management, management information systems and marketing. At the graduate level, it offers the only separately accredited master of accountancy in Montana and the first master of science in business analytics in the Pacific Northwest. Its Master of Business Administration, which is the only degree of its kind in the state, lets students earn their diploma online without stepping foot on campus.

With nearly 20,000 alumni, the college has a strong track record of preparing students to launch successful careers as leaders in their chosen fields. UM business alumni rise to management positions with global powerhouse companies like Microsoft, Nike, KPMG and Boeing and launch careers as accountants, IT consultants, marketing professionals and entrepreneurs – work that bolsters local economies in Montana and beyond.

UM accounting programs, which have longstanding reputations for preparing top grads, ranks nationally for its CPA exam pass rate and was recently ranked for having the [top undergraduate and master’s programs](#) in the region and

nation.

Overall, U.S. News and World Report ranked the University of Montana at 254th among public and private universities nationally. To view the complete rankings, visit <http://www.usnews.com/colleges>.

For more about UM's College of Business, visit <http://www.business.umt.edu>.

###

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UM Homecoming 2019 Parade Applications Available

September 06, 2019

MISSOULA – Applications for the 2019 University of Montana Homecoming Parade now are available. This year's Homecoming theme is "100 Years of Homecoming: Montana Forever 1919-2019," and the parade will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, in downtown Missoula.

Each year, multiple University groups, school organizations, local businesses and more march down Higgins Avenue on the Saturday morning of game day to help highlight a week of Homecoming festivities.



Parade applications are available on the UM Alumni Association site at <https://grizalum.org/events/homecoming/2019-parade.php>. Parade entries cost \$50 before 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, and entries received thereafter cost \$75. The final deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27.

For more information call the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211 or email alumni@umontana.edu.

###

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Climate Change Water Variability Hurts Salamander Populations

September 06, 2019

MISSOULA – New research from the University of Montana suggests that streamflow variability brought on by climate change will negatively affect the survival of salamanders.

UM biology Professor Winsor Lowe and his partners studied spring salamanders living in five New Hampshire



streams. Like many streams around the globe, these waterways are experiencing greater fluctuations between low and high flows brought about by climate change.

The researchers revealed that streamflow variability can kill salamanders while they are metamorphosing from larvae to adults. The work was published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in an article titled “Hydrologic variability contributes to reduced survival through metamorphosis in a stream salamander.”

“We feel this work is important because it expands our knowledge about the effects of climate change on a diverse group of species that are often overlooked because they spend most of their lives under rocks and logs in small, headwater streams,” Lowe said. “Increasing environmental variability may be especially challenging for species that undergo metamorphosis – like many insects and amphibians – because that’s a vulnerable period when they rely on stable environments for survival.”

He said the research suggests society shouldn’t focus on average conditions as it tries to understand and manage the effects of climate change. Scientists and managers also must pay attention to changes in environmental variability, which may increase with climate change.

“Small headwater streams are home to diverse species and the source of clean water to downstream communities, but these ecosystems are also easy to overlook and are losing protection under proposed Clean Water Act revisions,” Lowe said. “Our work underscores the vulnerability of headwater ecosystems in this era of climate change, the need for protection of vulnerable headwater species, and the value of long-term monitoring efforts.”

Using a 20-year dataset from Merrill Brook in New Hampshire, the researchers showed the abundance of spring salamander adults declined about 50% since 1999, but no trend was noted for larval abundance. Scientists then studied whether streamflow variability at Merrill Brook and streams in the nearby Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest affected the survival of salamanders metamorphosing from larvae to adults. They found that fewer salamanders survived metamorphosis during years when streamflow variability was high, leading to the decline in the adult population.

Lowe collaborated on this work with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, and the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The paper is online at

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2019/09/04/1908057116>.

###

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UM Completes Successful Bond Sale

September 05, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana issued \$146.8 million of taxable and tax-exempt bonds Thursday, which will allow the state's Missoula-based flagship university to usher in a new era of growth and development in support of students.

UM President Seth Bodnar, along with a small team of University officials and students, traveled to New York for the bond sale. UM recently had its Aa3 rating from Moody's Investors Service reaffirmed

with a stable outlook, affirming its place among the nation's top-rated colleges and universities for financial strength and stability.

The bonds were University of Montana general revenue bonds issued by the State of Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education. Morgan Stanley led the sale on behalf of the University. In addition to refinancing substantially all of its outstanding debt, the bond issuance generated approximately \$63 million that will be invested in UM's student-serving infrastructure.

"Institutional investors in Thursday's sale included the most recognized and well-respected investors in the national bond market," Bodnar said. "Their confidence investing in our students and our mission is inspiring."

UM bonds were also sold to retail customers.

As UM approaches its 127th anniversary next year, Bodnar said the sale of the bonds will be used to finance capital improvements with the approval of the Board of Regents.

"We will invest the bond proceeds and future cash flow savings to revitalize our student housing, dining, recreational facilities and educational spaces, as well as completing deferred maintenance projects and plant upgrades that will result in significant utilities savings and a reduced carbon footprint," Bodnar said. "We are excited to usher in the



next chapter of growth for the University of Montana.”

UM advances a mission to provide a high-quality and accessible education at a world-class research university. The Missoula campus is recognized nationally and internationally as a flagship institution of the Montana University System and has produced 28 Rhodes Scholars, the 17th highest of any university and fifth highest among public universities.

Reflecting its commitment to the state and its Native American heritage, the University has achieved 42 Udall Scholars and 13 honorable mentions for leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or to the environment – the most of any university in the nation.

###

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Egyptian Educators Coming to UM for Disability Services Study Tour

September 05, 2019

MISSOULA – Higher education officials from five Egyptian universities and that country's Ministry of Education will visit the University of Montana Sept. 10-15 as part of a tour to learn about improving access for students with disabilities.

During the tour, the Egyptians will attend a lecture on Wednesday, Sept. 11, by George Kerscher, a pioneer in the field of digital technology and accessibility who holds an honorary doctorate from UM. He was recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change during the Obama Administration.

Kerscher will present "Publishing and Worldwide Access for Students with Disabilities in Universities" at 4:30 p.m. in the University Center Theater. The event is free and open to the

public.

The 18 Egyptian officials will tour UM and then the University of Colorado, Boulder, so they can learn to administer newly established Disability Support Centers in Egypt. They will be in Colorado Sept. 15-20.

The Montana portion of the study tour is hosted by UM's Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities and UM Disability Services for Students.

"The partnership between these two institutions – one rural and one urban – showcases how universities with different needs, resources and student populations provide disability support services, exposing tour participants to different successful university models," said Dr. Anna-Margaret Goldman, director of the Rural Institute's MonTECH program.

The study tour was organized by AMIDEAST, an American nonprofit organization engaged in international education and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa, and USAID as part of enhanced activities within Egypt to improve equality for people with disabilities. In 2018, Egyptian public universities received funding to establish Disability Support Centers to meet the needs of students with disabilities within higher education institutions and to promote equal access.

The study tour will provide Egyptian higher education professionals an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of university policies related to people with disabilities, the role and activities of disability support services offices, practices for how to promote inclusion for people with disabilities, and strategies to address common issues and barriers for students with disabilities on university campuses.

Specifically, the study tour will provide interactive trainings and presentations on different models for university administrative structures and policy, independent living and self-advocacy curriculums, disability assessments, assistive technology accommodations and inclusive walking audit tours.



The one-hour Kerscher presentation will provide a high-level perspective on access to the World Wide Web and published materials such as textbooks, journals and papers. It will explain what “born accessible” published digital books are and how to use and find them.

The lecture will examine copyright laws and copyright exceptions, as well as the Marrakesh Treaty to boost access to published works for people with disabilities. It also will reveal strategies about what a university can do when born accessible materials are not available.

###

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UM Law School Expands Admissions Accessibility with GRE Acceptance

September 04, 2019

MISSOULA – The Alexander Blewett III School of Law will join 44 other American law schools in accepting the GRE in addition to the LSAT as an entrance exam for its 2019-20 application cycle.

The GRE offers an advantage in that it is offered year-round, while the LSAT is only available nine times a year. Accepting the GRE also benefits students who are considering pursuing one of the School of Law's joint-degree offerings, eliminating the need to take two separate entrance exams. The GRE also is a less expensive option.



“We hope accepting the GRE will expand accessibility and opportunity for our prospective students,” said Sarah Pepe, director of admissions for the School of Law.

For more than 100 years, UM’s School of Law has provided excellent training for lawyers to practice throughout the region. Last October, [the school ranked 11th in the nation](#) for Best Value Law Schools. Learn more on the [UM School of Law website](#).

The School of Law accepts about 80 new students each year. For more information about law school admissions, call 406-243-2396 or visit <https://www.umt.edu/law/admissions/default.php>.

###

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UM Physical Therapy Professor Authors New Guideline on Treating Runner's Knee

September 03, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – University of Montana Assistant Professor Richard Willy is the lead author on a paper that offers new guidelines for treating patellofemoral pain, often known as “runner’s knee.”

Patellofemoral pain (PFP) affects one in four of the general population every year, with women reporting PFP twice as often as men. The pain presents at the front of the knee, under and around the kneecap. Willy’s paper finds that exercise therapy – namely hip and knee strengthening treatments prescribed by a physical therapist – is the best recovery approach for individuals with PFP.

Willy is an assistant professor in UM’s School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences.

“While it might be tempting to seek

quick fixes for knee pain, there is no evidence that non-active treatments alone, such as electrical stimulation, lumbar manipulations, ultrasound or dry needling, help persons with PFP," he said. "Persons with PFP should seek clinicians who use exercise therapy for the treatment of this injury."

The recommendations were published Sept. 1 as a Clinical Practice Guideline in the Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy, the official scientific journal of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy. The Clinical Practice Guideline aims to improve the quality and standardization of care provided to patients with knee pain while also providing reimbursement guidelines for insurance companies.



Key takeaways from the Clinical Practice Guideline include:

- An exercise program that gradually increases activities such as running, exercise classes, sports or walking, is the best way to prevent PFP.
- Adolescent athletes who specialize in a single sport are at 28% greater risk of PFP than athletes who participate in a variety of sports.
- An important way to reduce the risk of PFP in military populations is maximizing leg strength, particularly the thigh muscles.
- Pain does not always mean there is damage to the knee.

The Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy publishes scientifically rigorous, clinically relevant content for physical therapists and others in the health care community to advance musculoskeletal and sports-related practice globally. For more information visit www.jospt.org.

###

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UM Promotes Importance of Student Wellness by Recognizing 17 New Advocates

September 03, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – Curry Health Center Wellness at the University of Montana celebrates the importance of student wellness with the addition of 17 new Student Wellness Advocates, bringing the campus total to 119.

Student Wellness Advocates are a network of UM faculty and staff recognized by students as being supportive of student success and well-being. The program is designed to identify and celebrate UM employees who help students thrive personally and academically. Students Wellness Advocates are nominated by students, presented with a certificate of recognition and provided with a “Student Wellness Advocate” sign they can display.

“We know that student well-being is at the heart of having a successful and positive college experience,” said Vice Provost for Student Success Sarah Swager. “As the University of Montana continues to grow and evolve we want to

celebrate the faculty and staff who continue to make UM a special place for our student body to thrive.”

The Student Wellness Advocate program began in 2017 under the leadership of Julee Stearns, health promotion specialist at Curry Health Center Wellness. Inspired by research and programs at Simon Fraser University in Canada, Stearns launched the UM program to recognize individuals on campus who positively impact student well-being. Students can nominate faculty or staff on campus at any time.

“By talking to UM students, we know that what happens in classrooms and across the campus environment can really impact their ability to rise to the challenge of college,” Stearns said. “When students have someone on campus they can turn to when they are stressed or overwhelmed, it makes a huge difference.”

Curry Health Center Wellness, in collaboration with Swager, will host a celebration of faculty and staff nominated as Student Wellness Advocates from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. Advocates also will hear from President Seth Bodnar and Provost Jon Harbor about the importance of supporting health and well-being on campus.

Stearns and the wellness department also have created a faculty toolkit with resources to help support instructors in the classroom. The toolkit was created in response to feedback from students and information collected in the National College Health Assessment survey. Based on work by Simon Fraser University, the toolkit resources are proven to positively impact the student experience and increase retention and success of students.

“UM data tells us that stress and anxiety are the top two reasons students struggle academically,” said Stearns. “When students have a supportive classroom environment and are treated with compassion across campus, it goes a long way in helping them overcome challenges in order to thrive both personally and academically. That is worth celebrating.”

The toolkit is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/toolkit>. To learn more about the Student Wellness Advocate program and Campus Wellness Coalition and see a list of Student Wellness Advocates, visit <http://www.umt.edu/swa>.

For more information about Student Wellness Advocates, the faculty toolkit or the celebration event, call Stearns at 406-243-5336 or email julee.stearns@umontana.edu.

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Note: Media are invited to attend the private celebration event.

Contact: Julee Stearns, health promotion specialist, UM Curry Health Center Wellness, 406-243-5336, julee.stearns@umontana.edu.

Get Involved



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